

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF INDIA

than all the economic exploitation. They have caused the greatest harm in the psychological sphere. There has been in Indian nationalism an almost pathological element, with the result that it has tended to compensate for a sense of inferiority by rejecting even good gifts from the West. Domination is never a suitable soil for the growth of mutual understanding or intellectual and material co-operation. What may have been a most fruitful union of two traditions has been marred and distorted by imperialist greed and the consequent prejudices.

We still teach our boys to admire the bloody deeds of the *conquistadores* who seized India; we vilify all the Indians who dared resist the spoliation of their territory. I remember reading as a boy a novel called *The Tiger of Mysore*^ and, as far as I can recollect, it represented Tippoo Sultan as a monster of cruelty. He certainly gave short shrift to his enemies, but this is how Thompson and Garrett describe him:

Tippoo's memory has been stereotyped into that of a monster pure and simple. But his character was perhaps unique in Oriental history. He had a spirit of innovation and curiosity recalling Akbar's; he was determined to extirpate intoxicants and drugs. . . . Brave himself, he evoked the extreme of reckless loyal co-operation in others. . . . His anxiety to strengthen his country with Western science and achievements was even free from religious hesitations. . . . British officers were astonished by the flourishing condition of Mysore. "The peasantry of his dominions are protected and their labours encouraged and rewarded."

Again, the same author? quote the description of the capture of the city of Seringapatam from a contemporary: "Scarcely a house in the town was left unplundered, and I understand that in camp jewels of the greatest value, bars of gold, etc., have been offered for sale in the bazaars of the army by our soldiers, sepoys and followers. . . , The